agencies found to be indulging in irregularities. The Ministry has also advised all State Governments for mandatory licensing of all orphanages and agencies and monitoring of adoption activities so that only licensed and recognized agencies undertake adoption activities in order to prevent illegal adoptions and trafficking of children. Such incidents are to be prevented by State Governments through strict enforcement of relevant laws. With a view to further streamlining various procedures, the Juvenile Justice Act, 1986 has been replaced by the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2000 which has come into force with effect from 01-042001.

**Action Plan for Implementation of NPOP**

1592. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have, so far, formulated any National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) to provide a legitimate place to them in the society;

(b) if so, which nodal agency has been assigned the job to implement the same;

(c) whether any plan of action during 2001-2005 chalked out under NPOP and any dialogue/consultation held with the representatives of the senior citizens to identity their problems/ grievances with the view to redressing them; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir. A National Policy on Older Persons (NPOP) was formulated in January, 1999.

(b) This Ministry coordinates the implementation of NPOP with the concerned Ministries/Departments of the Central Government and all the State Governments as well as the NGOs and Self-help groups.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Action Plan for implementation of NPOP during

the period 2000-2005 has been drawn up in consultation with representatives of senior citizens, NGOs and others.

(d) Does not arise.

**Maintenance Allowance under Post-Matric Scholarships for SC/ST Students**

1593. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have had under consideration the question of revision of the maintenance allowance under Government sponsored post-matric scholarships for Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe students;

(b) if so, the decision taken in this regard; and

(c) the aspects and proposals under consideration in relation thereto and the reasons for delay?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (DR. SATYA NARAYAN JATIYA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As 2001-02 was the last year of the Ninth Plan, it has been decided to look into revision in the Post Matric Scholarship Schemes for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students covering all required change in the Tenth Five Year Plan.